



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Tony Borders, California Transplant Donor Network, 510-273-1226, 650-301-8247 cell or aborders@ctdn.org; or Paula Valle, (213) 612-4927, pvalle@jdipr.com

CALIFORNIA TRANSPLANT DONOR NETWORK HONORS TISSUE DIRECTOR MATTHEW CRUMP WITH FIRST PHYLLIS WEBER AWARD

*Crump's leadership in 2010 resulted in more than 1000
tissue donations being recovered by CTDN*

OAKLAND, CALIF. – Jan. 28, 2011 -- "Humbled, surprised and honored" said **Matthew Crump**, Director of Tissue Services for **California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN)**, after receiving the organization's Phyllis Weber Award recently.

The honor is named after Weber who served as Chief Executive Officer for CTDN from 1988 and became a national leader in organ procurement organizations until she retired in 2007.

"By choosing one of our colleagues to receive this award each year, we aim to honor Phyllis's long standing commitment to organ and tissue donation and the way they can change lives," Chief Executive Officer Cindy Siljestrom said.

This is the first year the honor was given out by the transplant network, which serves most of Northern California and Northern Nevada.

"What we do here at the California Transplant Donor Network is life changing," Siljestrom said. "So we were pleased about a year ago to announce that for the first time, three tissue banks would join our team. Matthew did an outstanding job in having that transition go smoothly, making sure we continued to provide the high quality of service to the families who agree to the donations which in turn enhance so many people's lives."

Crump came to the organ and tissue procurement organization in September 2009 and helped guide the Oakland-based group's absorption of three different tissue services into CTDN.

"It involved lots of training," Crump said. "We had lots of experienced people who came into CTDN who had learned different practices. But there was a lot of support from everyone involved."

Siljestrom said, "There were challenges we faced in taking three separate cultures within each organization and blending them into one. From now on though, we are definitely a blended family."

With more than 60 employees working in four locations, the focus of the tissue division is facilitating donations such as corneas and skin, improving the lives of thousands of people each year. Last year the group handled about 33,000 referrals with more than 1,100 donations.

More than 7 million Californians have signed up to be organ and tissue donors online at www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org or checked “yes” at the DMV when renewing their drivers' licenses.

About the California Transplant Donor Network

The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The California Transplant Donor Network helps 175 hospitals in 41 Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada counties offer the option of organ and tissue donation to families whose loved ones have died, coordinates deceased organ recovery and placement, and provides public education with the hope that every resident will become a donor. The California Transplant Donor Network is federally designated as the region's organ recovery organization. For information, visit www.ctdn.org or call (888) 570-9400.

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